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SUBJECT: UNGA: INSTRUCTIONS TO CALL FOR VOTE ON PARAGRAPH
17 OF RESOLUTION ON UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

11. Mission is instructed to call for a vote and vote "no" on operational paragraph 17 of agenda item 54(e) Sustainable Development: Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and to deliver the EOY contained in paragraph 2 prior to the vote on this paragraph.

12. Begin text of EOY. The United States has called for a vote and will vote "no" on OP 17 because we are disappointed by the continued diversion of resources from the UN regular budget to subsidize independent and self-sustaining treaty bodies and conventions such as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD). As a matter of principle, treaty bodies and conventions can and should collect the necessary funds from their membership to finance their activities. We support the objectives of the UNCCD, and will continue to do so through our voluntary contributions to the convention. End of text of EOY.

13. Regardless of the outcome of the vote on operational paragraph 17, Mission is instructed to join consensus on the resulting resolution.

RICE